

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the subject application, and all of such claims stand rejected. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims be reconsidered and passed to issuance in view of this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 10, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitsuyoshi (JP '666).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly distinguish Applicants' invention over Mitsuyoshi. Claims 2-7, 10, 11 and 14 are dependent upon claim 1, as amended. Support for Applicants' amendment can be found, for example, with reference to FIG. 2 of the present application. Referring to FIG. 2, power leads 36 and ground leads 37 are connected to bonding pads on die 38 by bonding wires 39. Ground plane 40 is connected to a first end of ground lead 37 (ie. P3). Ground plane 40 extends beyond edges of die 38 as well as beyond the first end of ground lead 37. Further, ground plane 40 extends beyond a corresponding first end of power lead 36. Applicants' ground plane 40 extends substantially over the entire bottom surface of package 34 (ie. extends beyond edges of die 38 and first ends of power leads 36 and ground leads 37) so that the level of electromagnetic interference radiating from the package is reduced.

Mitsuyoshi discloses a ground plane which is located on the same level in the package as a power plane and the ground plane is surrounded by the power plane. Also, the ground plane does not extend beyond an end of a ground lead, or any ends of any of the power or ground leads (19). The ground plane of Mitsuyoshi fails to extend beyond the power plane and the ends of the power and ground leads. Thus, electromagnetic interference radiating from the power plane, or

from the ends of the power leads and ground leads within the package are not suppressed by the ground plane.

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been overcome

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuyoshi (JP '666) in view of An et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,804,874); rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuyoshi (JP '666) in view of Hernandez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,734,818); and, rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuyoshi (JP '666) in view of Hundt (U.S. Patent No. 5,283,717).

As discussed above, Applicants believe that Mitsuyoshi does not anticipate, teach or suggest Applicants' claim 1, as amended. Thus, Mitsuyoshi in combination with An et al., Hernandez et al. or Hundt do not teach or suggest Applicants' claims 8, 9, 12 and 13.

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

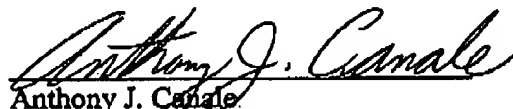
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Fujio et al.

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